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SALT LAKE CITY, OCT. 21, 1909.

LOSSES FROM OVER-IRRIGATION

It has been estimated that 150,000 acres of irrigated land in Utah have been ruined or seriously injured by seepage of alkali. These lands will require drainage in order again to become productive.

In other states, writer Dr. A. C. True, director of experiment station, "from ten to twenty per cent of the land which has been under irrigation for ten years or more requires drainage."

Methods of drainage are not so well established for irrigated land as for land in humid areas. Therefore a bulletin has been prepared by the United States department of agriculture, entitled "Drainage of Irrigated Lands." It is the work of Charles F. Brown of the office of experiment stations. His report not only describes the condition of the land, the details of its drainage, and the results which were obtained in particular cases, but gives carefully drawn deductions from the experiments, together with directions for draining lands that have become too wet or too alkaline under the ordinary methods of irrigation for profitable cultivation.

This bulletin, while it applies to all irrigated lands, is based upon experimental work done in Utah. The drainage investigations of the office were begun in the state during the summer of 1908 in co-operation with the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station. Since then the work has been carried on with a fund provided jointly by the State legislature and the office of experiment stations, the Utah station acting for the State.

It is a pleasure to note that individual owners, as well as the State itself, have in every case co-operated with the federal agents in carrying on the investigations.

Mr. Brown remarks that the necessity for draining irrigated lands has increased rapidly during the last twenty years; the most productive lands of these regions and those who were first brought under cultivation are, in many instances, now abandoned or fit only for wet pasturage.

In Utah alone, he estimates that approximately 200,000 acres of irrigated lands require drainage. "Salt Lake valley," he says, "has about 34,000 acres of such lands, and several other valleys from 10,000 to 20,000 acres each. There are several localities in which, of the total irrigated lands, 50 per cent are in such condition."

California, Colorado, Washington, Montana and Wyoming are likewise affected, more or less; and in time all of the newly irrigated lands will have their problems of drainage. It devolves upon the holders of such lands to reclaim them.

To the end of developing the best methods for accomplishing the reclamation of such lands the Office of Experiment Stations has conducted drainage investigations in Utah, California, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska, with results which justify Mr. Brown's conclusion that "There is scarcely any land in the irrigated region which formerly produced paying crops, and later became affected by excess of water or alkali, that can not be profitably reclaimed, provided the work is correctly planned and carried out. These results also point to the possibility of reclaiming many virgin lands containing an excess of alkali salts."

The Utah investigations and experiments were conducted at Hyde Park, Cache County; at Garland, and Point Lookout, in Boxelder County; at Roy, Ogden, Clearfield, and Syracuse, in Weber County; at Huntington, Emery County; at Richfield, Sevier County; and at St. George, Washington County.

The following classification of lands requiring drainage is made: (1) those injured by excess of water only; (2) those affected by an excess of both water and alkali; (3) those having an excess of alkali only.

The first class is not important or extensive here. The second class includes most of the lands that now need drainage in the irrigated sections. The third class consists principally of those not yet cultivated because they contain alkali to a depth of about six feet and hence crop failures result.

Alkali in soil is the result of a light rainfall, "insufficient in amount to leach out of the land the salts that always form in it by progressive weathering of the rock powder, of which all soils largely consist." The following interesting account of alkali soils is given:

"Ordinarily alkali is made up of one or more of the following salts in varying proportions: Sodium chloride (common salt), sodium sulphate (Glauber's salt), magnesium sulphate (Epsom's salt), calcium sodium, and calcium sulphate, all of which are white alkalis, and sodium carbonate (soda) or black alkali. The latter is so called on account of the dark stains on the ground caused by the dissolution of the soil humus or vegetable matter. These salts and also the mineral plant foods are readily soluble in water, so that in the humid countries the constant leaching removes not only the injurious salts but also part of the plant foods. This accounts for the infertile fertility of the arid lands as compared with humid lands. The account of the origin of alkali naturally suggests the control by irrigation and underdrainage."

Mr. Brown states that millions of dollars would have been saved in the

West if the injurious accumulations of alkali seepage water and methods of preventing them had been known and appreciated, also that the injuries could have been prevented at reasonable cost.

The report shows that the Hyde Park lands, formerly fit only for pasturage, were drained at a cost of \$15.50 per acre. During the two following years different portions were planted to oats, wheat, and sugar beets, with yields of 100 bushels of oats, 50 bushels of wheat, and 18 tons of sugar beets per acre. The Garland wet land was drained at a cost of \$16.87 per acre, and the drainage raised the land value from less than \$100 to \$150 per acre.

The Getz farm at Point Lookout, which was badly alkali and produced practically nothing, was drained, producing 35 bushels of oats per acre the following season. The Hobson farm at Roy, Utah, was drained at a cost of \$13.67 per acre, enhancing its value \$25 per acre. The Richfield tract is well drained at a cost of \$14.02 per acre; and the land, formerly worth \$25 per acre, promises to reach the \$100 mark. Lands in Weber and Davis counties, valued at from \$150 to \$200 per acre, have been preserved by draining at about the same cost as those above mentioned. The Huntington and St. George tracts are not yet reclaimed, but it is expected that the cost of reclaiming such lands, according to methods now in use, will fall within or close to the highest costs given here.

This valuable publication, Farmers' Bulletin 271, will be sent free to those applying for it. It is a strong reminder of the losses that have already occurred from over-irrigation, and a timely indicator of methods to be followed in retrieving these losses as well as preventing future damage to irrigated lands from the same cause.

Taft and Diaz

President Taft has disregarded a tradition according to which the President of the United States may not step outside our own territory while in office. There is no apparent reason for the observance of that tradition. Rulers of other countries travel over land and sea, when they feel so disposed, or good policy demands it; why should not the President of this country do the same? When Mr. Taft stepped over the Mexican border and called on President Diaz in the little settlement of Ciudad Juarez, he established a new precedent, and the meeting became historical.

The public interviews between the two presidents are described as very cordial. In this respect they were typical of the relations existing between the United States and Mexico. It is true that lately sentiment has developed in Mexico against "American encroachment," and possibly this matter was discussed in the private conferences that were held. Be this as it may, it is certain that the United States and Mexico are friends. They should never be anything else. They should stand together and co-operate in the development of this entire continent.

President Diaz is a remarkable man. He has been described as an absolute ruler, and it may be true that he is such a ruler; but he has made Mexico what it is, and possibly only absolute rule could accomplish the desired results in this instance. Diaz is one of the great men of the world. When his work is finished his genius will be measured both by the importance of Mexico, as a nation, and by his greatness as a man.

The manner in which he made Mexico safe by transforming highwaymen into officers of the law, is typical of the genius of the man. One of the intolerable evils of the country was the bandits that infested every highway, and every mountain trail. Travel was safe nowhere in the country. They must be suppressed, but how? Diaz sent for his leaders from all over the country. He promised them safety in coming to the capital and returning to their lairs. The outlaws became the rural guards of Mexico. They owned their own horses and accoutrements, and they do yet, taking great pride in them. The typical riding costume of the country was adopted as their uniform. That put an end to outlawry in Mexico. No use for other men to start in the business with those fellows to run them down. The roads of Mexico became safer than city streets and travel as secure in the wild mountain passes as in Pullman cars, and the Rurals of Mexico have become known all over the world.

THE CHARGE MADE.

Councilman Fernstrom, in his address at Citizens' headquarters on Tuesday evening charged that the bosses in control of the City's affairs had adopted methods similar to those in vogue in San Francisco when the storm of indignation broke loose over that city. As an illustration he referred to the city ordinance to regulate the liquor traffic which was passed by the council last spring. This ordinance, he said, was good but it was never meant to be enforced. It was intended, he said, as a club over the heads of those who would not submit to party demands.

What the criminal government of San Francisco was, at the time referred to by the councilman from the Third, has been described by George Keegan in McClure's magazine. In many cases, this writer says, the executive boards adopted vexatious, harassing, or impossible regulations for the sole purpose of bringing pressure to bear upon business men who refused or neglected to pay. The board of health, for example, held up milk dealers by insisting upon the observance of wholly impracticable rules with regard to cleanliness, but when the milkmen formed an association, engaged a lawyer of Mr. Rue's selection and began to pay regular tributes, they were allowed to conduct their business as they chose. A similar policy was pursued in dealing with owners of theaters and proprietors of music halls.

The charge has been openly made that similar methods have been resorted to in this City. The citizens will have to express, at the polls, their approval or disapproval of such government.

CONFESION AND TORTURE.

Does the law authorize the police to extract a confession from a prisoner, by means of torture?

"The decision that establishes all men

as innocent, until proven guilty, yet allows a citizen to be arrested at will by officers, confined in a cell, refused counsel, passed through the "sweating" system, and every gesture in their humiliating condition presented to the court at their hearing, as evidence for holding to trial; the ingenuity of the police generally giving them the stigma of a criminal, even if they be fortunate enough to prove their own innocence; the contumely of the law on conviction that imprisons a man under circumstances of evidence for thirty-two years, on a charge of murder, and finally when a death-bed confession of the guilty man proves the convict's criminal, even if they be in the world with a suit of prison-makes and barely enough money to take him to his old and neglected mother, whose dim eyes from nights of weeping light up to greet her gray-haired son ere death shall cheat her of the pleasure; these and many other conditions, of which the law itself states do not appear to have complied with the tenets of the Constitution."

This is from "Summing It Up," a treatise on economic, moral and religious conditions, etc., by Henry Lewis Hubbard. It expresses a truth that not many have had the consideration it deserves. By what right, human or divine, does an officer of the law submit any man to torture in order to extract a confession? Physical torture has long ago been condemned and eliminated from legal proceedings in every civilized country. But is mental torture less barbarous than the rack or the thumb screw? And a still more important question—is a confession extracted by physical or mental torture of any value whatever? People have long ago ceased believing in the guilt of the "witches" that were burned at the stake, though many of them confessed, under torture, that they had committed impossible crimes.

There is no blinder love than self-love.

He who does things rarely does people.

Mr. Bryan's daughter is running for office.

Not coal has come to mean coal of pine not size.

When the leaves begin to fall then the fall begins.

I Took-a-Shoo should be apprenticed to a cobbler.

A man may be knock-kneed and not be a knocker.

It is a wise workman who knows the ways of the boss.

The dog man isn't nearly so dogmatic as some other city officials.

The best signs of the times are the advertisements in the papers.

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

A MEMORY THAT SAVED UNCLE SAM \$31,000,000.

By E. J. Edwards.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events and personalities of the past have been running for nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders since the Civil War. Each anecdote or incident is fresh from Mr. Edwards's notebook, and, either in whole or in part, it constitutes New News of Yesterday, gathered from the men who made the news—the history—or from equally authoritative sources. As important contributions of the "Human Interest" sort to American history, these articles have a distinctive value all their own.

It is a part of the American history that, during Grant's first administration, the government of Mexico vainly endeavored to convince an international arbitration convention that it should be awarded \$31,000,000 damages against the United States, for depredations committed by our Indians, in Mexico following the close of the Mexican war and the year 1853. But, so far as I have been able to learn, there is no record anywhere of the fact that, even when it seemed certain to many that this government would have to pay the heavy damages asked, the Mexican claim was completely shattered by as marvelous a feat of memory as has been recorded. This new light on an important event in the history of world-arbitration was given to me some time since by a distinguished lawyer who has been prominent in American diplomacy. And when he told me the story, he prefaced it with the remark that he saw no reason why he should tell it, leaving me to infer that his lips had been sealed by the man who performed the feat of memory until after the latter's death.

The central figure in this drama of millions was Joseph Hubley Ashton, who was one of the founders of the American Bar association, and who died in Washington a few years ago. He was one of the great intellects of the American bar, yet his career illustrates the truth of the saying that great lawyers often have no fame.

Besides his marvelous mastery of the fundamental principles of law, Mr. Ashton probably had the most extraordinary memory of any American lawyer. I mean by this that his memory was absolutely accurate. It was a phenomenal storehouse of facts, dates, names, events. The courts needed no verification of any statement that he made. And of the archives of the State Department, where his work frequently took him, Mr. Ashton's memory was almost as good as index.

This able lawyer was chosen as our government's agent when the Indian claims were placed before a board of arbitration consisting of two American and two Mexican members, with the British minister to this country, Sir Edward Thornton as umpire. Mr. Ashton had opposed to him General Caleb Cushing, who had been our first minister plenipotentiary to China and who, for years, had been looked upon as the equal of any great American lawyer who could be named. At this time he was at the height of his world-wide reputation as a lawyer, a scholar, and a diplomat who could talk fluently in the language spoken in either circles that General Cushing had advised the Mexican government against whom he had fought in 1846-8, thereby winning the military title—that, under the treaty of 1851 and that ending the Mexican war, in which each government agreed to restrain its Indians from making incursions of its neighbor's territory, it would surely recover the heavy damages asked. That, too, was undoubtedly the view of the matter taken by some of our high government officials, whose only hope was that xico could be kept down to a minimum.

Right here comes in Mr. Ashton, with that wonderful memory of his. As has already been remarked, he frequently conducted researches in the archives of the state department, which were not then kept handily nor indexed, as now. Casting about for a suitable defense to make before the convention he recalled that during one of his searches, among the chaos of state department papers he had accidentally come across and casually read some official document in which, it seemed to him, as he recalled it, Mexico had waived her Indian claims against this government, in consideration of the fact that the United States had paid to Mexico \$10,000,000 for what is commonly known as the Gadsden purchase. By this purchase made in 1853, this country obtained territory that now lies in Arizona and partly in New Mexico.

Of course, it was necessary to find this document, if it existed. Mr. Ashton's memory of it certainly could not be offered as evidence. Absolutely confident that his memory was not playing him false, Mr. Ashton began his veritable needle-in-a-haystack search for the document. Day after day the officials of the state department beheld him going painstakingly through the dusty and yellow files and documents, and day after day they beheld him leave the department unwearied, but confident of ultimate victory.

Hundreds, thousands of papers were examined by Mr. Ashton. Then, finally, there came a day when he pulled some loose papers from a dirty envelope—his task was over. For among these papers, whose very existence had been forgotten by everybody except the man who had accidentally stumbled upon them long before when about other business and glanced casually over them, was found a note from General Almonte, written when he was the Mexican minister at Washington, in which it was officially stated that in view of the terms of the Gadsden purchase, Mexico waived all claims for depredations committed by our Indians on her territory.

There remained just one thing to do. When the convention met, with Gen. Cabel and his client cocksure of victory, Mr. Ashton quietly produced the Mexican waiver. The brilliant Cushing and the Mexicans were utterly confounded. Sir Edward Thornton, as umpire, gave judgment for the United States—an infallible memory had saved the country a fortune.

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Mr. Hearst cries aloud for justice, but it is not Justice Gaynor.

The office and the nomination seeking the man are different things.

A man sometimes makes a bore of himself through being afraid of being bored.

Man never responds so promptly to the call of duty as he does to the call to dinner.

Nowadays when a cook keeps one situation for two months it makes her a "famous cook."

Cases heard on the street generally are much more interesting than cases heard on appeal.

The volley that killed Francisco Ferrer was heard round the world, as Spain is learning.

Just two months to the shortest days. That is also the time when people are the shortest of funds.

While on his brother's ranch President Taft will find no trouble in Texas steering the ship of state.

Usually it is when a truth is disagreeable that the "candid man" insists upon telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Commander Peary has submitted the data and proofs of his North Pole expedition to the National Geographic society. Did he include the statement of the Eskimos?

All who would end the rule of the Pseudo-American party must unite to accomplish that end. Division among its opponents is what it desires and does all it can to encourage.

Who closed the Park City mines immediately after the "American" party had won the last City election and took the bread out of the mouths of the working men, without warning or proper notice?

The De Lara case should be looked into immediately for it is quite sure to breed a scandal if he is not given an examination right away. Prima facie his arrest seems to have been an arbitrary proceeding and seems to smack of ways that Americans do not like.

Somehow or other "suffragette" always seems like a term of reproach and contempt. American women will scarcely adopt it for there is associated with it recollection of all the boisterous, riotous and anything but ladylike conduct of the English suffragettes who made themselves so obnoxious.

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER

By George F. Butler, A.M., M.D.

Keep your teeth clean and they won't decay! How shall they be kept clean? Of course with a tooth-brush, says some one. Yes, a tooth-brush is a good thing, but one good tooth-brush is worth an armful of tooth-brushes. The tooth-brush does well in keeping the flat side of the teeth clean, but on those flat surfaces the food does not stick, and so there is little tendency to decay. The mouth is a warm place, nearly a hundred degrees by the thermometer. If we eat meat today for dinner, the little pieces which find their way between our teeth will be exposed to the heat of the mouth, begin to decompose before tomorrow noon. If these particles of food are left between our teeth and allowed to decompose, ought we to be surprised that the teeth and gums should suffer? A tooth-brush will not get between the teeth and remove those bits of food. On rising from the table use a goose-quill tooth-pick thoroughly, and rinse the mouth, so as to remove such particles as the tooth-brush may have left behind. Before retiring at night, use a tooth-brush with a good tooth powder. Do the same thing on rising in the morning. Consult your dentist frequently that your teeth may be kept in good condition.

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